

REVIEWS OF RECENT BOOKS.

Bodart, G., LL.D. *Losses of Life in Modern Wars. Austria-Hungary; France.* **Kellogg, V. L.** *Military Selection and Race Deterioration.* Oxford University Press; 1916; pp. 505 + viii. + 5. Price 6s. net.

THIS book, issued by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, consists of two parts; the first, occupying three-quarters of the book, consists of an attempt to ascertain from historical sources, and to express in statistical form, the losses of life which have been sustained by Austria-Hungary and by France since the beginning of the seventeenth century. In spite of the general lack of exact data, this should prove a work of great value. Since arguments are based upon the effect of the revolutionary wars upon the population of France, it would have been better to include an estimate of the loss of life in executions during the revolution. The long and bloody insurrection of La Vendée is indeed mentioned, and its death-roll is estimated at several hundred thousand men, yet the political mortality of those times does not seem to receive sufficient attention. Although whole classes were executed or exiled, and several departments depopulated, the lower status of the recruits born during the generation which followed the revolution are uniformly put down to "militarism."

The second section, on "Military Selection and Race Deterioration," by V. L. Kellogg, is evidently a very sincere and almost successful attempt to treat impartially a subject upon which the author holds strong preconceptions. The attempt would perhaps have been wholly successful if he had been able to resist the use of the word "militarism." We have such phrases as "in any attempt to trace the consequences of war, and militarism generally, on the constitution of the race." If "militarism generally" has any meaning here it must be intended to examine into the racial effects of training for war, and of the spiritual tradition of a fighting race; but nowhere is there any reason shown for thinking that these consequences will be identical with those of war. Politically, they enable a nation to sustain the burden of war, often to avert it, and at the worst to recover from it, and it is not unlikely that, by such agencies as sexual selection, a strong military tradition provides the best means of recovering from its racial effects also.

Of the three main types of mortality due to war the one of which the effect is clearest—the death of soldiers in battle—is also numerically the smallest. The deaths of soldiers by sickness, and the additional mortality of the civilian populations, have in past wars been much more numerous. There is apparently no question of the eugenic significance of the deaths of soldiers in battle. The soldier is selected for valuable physical qualities, and in the case of voluntary enlistment, for courage and devotion to duty also; he is unquestionably on the average superior to the civilian, and his death by increasing the proportion of the latter is an injury to the race. Of the deaths of soldiers by sickness during a campaign it is less easy to judge. Its effect is undoubtedly that the veteran is more hardy and possessed of better innate qualities than the recruit; but in the absence of data it is impossible to tell whether this effect exceeds, or falls short of the injury done by the reduction of the proportion of soldiers to rejects. The additional mortality of the civilian population is a curious effect which has not yet been sufficiently investigated. Mr. Kellogg seems to ascribe it to the introduction of disease by armies, but this is certainly not the only cause. Unfortunately, no figures are given as to the ages of the victims, for instance, of the great German

outbreak of smallpox in 1871. A large part of the civilian population, unlike the army, is beyond having any further direct effect upon the race; so that to judge the selective effects of any additional mortality which it suffers, it is important to know what proportion is contributed by (i.) adult women and children under military age, (ii.) adult men, (iii.) old men and women unlikely to have any more children.

The only direct evidence of racial injury which is here brought forward is that the records of stature and physical measurements in the official *Comptes rendus du Recrutement* of the French Army since 1830, and the official records (unpublished) of the War Office before that date. Unfortunately, these figures, upon which such important arguments are based, are not reproduced. We must content ourselves with the statement that the average height of the annual contingents born during the Napoleonic wars was about 1,625 mm.; of those born after the war it was about 1,655 mm. Without knowing how many years subsequent to 1815 were taken into the average, it is impossible to compare these figures with the corresponding rise in height observed in other countries during the last century. The conclusion of Callignon that the children in Dordogne, born during and immediately after the Franco-Prussian War, were especially vigorous and free from infirmities is fairly mentioned, as is that of Ammon that the Badense recruits of these years did not differ in stature from other years. Vacher de Laponge came to the opposite conclusion.

There are much more serious signs of bias in the section on Syphilis and Gonorrhœa. In spite of the table (p. 195) showing for 1905-1907 the rates of prevalence of these diseases in different armies,

Germany (1905-6)	...	...	...	...	19.8	per 1,000
France (1906)	...	...	...	...	28.6	"
Austria (1907)	...	...	...	...	54.2	"
Russia (1906)	...	...	...	...	62.7	"
United Kingdom (1907)	...	...	...	...	68.4	"
United States (1907)	...	...	...	...	167.8	"

we find in the Summary (p. 201) "Venereal disease is extraordinarily fostered by militarism, as the medical statistics of all War Departments show." It is surprising to see this "scourge of militarism" eight times more prevalent in the United States than in Germany; while the conditions in Europe were worst in the country which maintained the smallest army and which adhered to the anti-militarist method of voluntary enlistment. For the countries taken separately these figures can prove nothing without a knowledge of the corresponding age-group of civilians. To compare, as Mr. Kellogg repeatedly does in the British statistics, the proportion of recruits rejected on account of syphilis with the proportion found in the army is grossly and inexcusably misleading. Apart from the fact that a syphilitic is unlikely to offer himself for a medical examination, the recruits are mostly boys of 18 or 19, and it is just in the succeeding ten years that this disease and gonorrhœa find most of their victims. This objection, which was emphatically stated at the Eugenics Congress in 1912, must have been familiar to Mr. Kellogg, yet the only comparison which is made between the army and the civilian population is a comparison of those rejected as recruits with those admitted to hospital as soldiers. The serious objection that a syphilitic would not ordinarily offer himself is admitted in a footnote, but the difference between the syphilis rates in youth and manhood is entirely neglected. R. A. F.

Sergi, PROFESSOR GUISEPPE. *L'Eugenica e la Decadenza delle Nazioni.* (Reprinted from the Transactions of the Italian Society for the Progress of the Sciences, Rome, March, 1916.)

AFTER a tribute to the genius of Francis Galton, and a graceful reference to the work of the Eugenics Education Society, Professor Sergi goes on to discuss the racial effects of war, with special reference to the present European conflict. He considers that the current view, which finds the